



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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NAJAS GUADALUPENSIS **GUADALUPE WATER-NYMPH**

Guadalupe Water-nymph is a submerged aquatic annual with slender, branching stems up to 70 cm long. The opposite, ribbon-like leaves, usually with additional leaves in their axils, are 0.5-2 cm long and have minutely toothed margins and enlarged bases. Tiny unisexual flowers, both male and female on the same plant, are borne singly, sessile in the axils of leaves. The male flowers have a single stamen enclosed in a translucent bract which is surrounded by a firmer bract, and the female flowers consist of a single naked pistil. The fruits are single seeded with a thin, papery covering. The long tapered seeds are round in cross-section and are dull and coarsely pitted with 10-20 rows of pits across the middle. Flowering in July, with mature fruit in August.

Distinguished from other genera of submerged aquatics in Montana by its opposite, ribbon-like leaves with expanded bases, and also by its solitary, axillary, unisexual flowers. Distinguished from the more common *NAJAS FLEXILIS* by having generally shorter leaves with short tapering tips rather than long tapering tips, and seeds that are dull and coarsely pitted rather than shiny with minute pits. A hand lens or microscope and technical key may be needed for positive identification.